



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

February 13, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Commissioner Powell:

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, our community's growth is dependent on access to the latest technologies and advancements in the telecommunications industry – and at a reasonable price. That is why, more than ever, the telecommunications industry's unrest is a serious concern. I am deeply concerned with the situation and how it is affecting businesses in our region.

It is clear that the telecommunications downturn has reverberations throughout communities nationwide. It is time the FCC creates a level playing field for telecommunications companies to compete on - and looks out for the interests of small businesses.

It is critical that the FCC establishes a national framework governing the telecom industry that encourages investment in infrastructure and creates an environment allowing for long-term, sustainable competition. We encourage you to keep these issues in mind as the FCC moves forward toward a decision in its triennial review process. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Hammer
President & Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy
Commission Adelstein
Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Copps